with the hon. Chief Minister, other Ministers of the State, and other senior officers of the State. We have identified certain stretches to upgrade and strengthen the standard of four-lane roads, which is taking a lot of attention. The DPR is ready. We will be taking up the project very shortly.

Sir, as far as the second bridge over the River Brahamaputra is concerned, we are going to consider the project as quickly as possible.

Potential of Orissa Coast

*228. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to State:

(a) whether Government are aware that Orissa coast has good potential in the port sector, yet it remains to be tapped; and

(b) if so, the action plan of Government to help the state to exploit this potential to improve the economy of this backward State?

THE MINISTER OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (b) The Central Government is fully conscious of the potential for development of ports in the State of Orissa. Under the National Maritime Development Programme (NMDP), a total of 28 projects involving an investment of Rs. 2403 crores have been identified to be taken up for implementation by the Paradip Port Trust, which is the only major port in Orissa, over the period up to 2011-12. Non-major ports are under the overall jurisdiction of the respective State Governments in whom the responsibility for their development vests. Accordingly, the responsibility for development of the non-major ports along the coastline in Orissa vests in the Government of Orissa. However, one non-major port in the State of Orissa, namely Gopalpur port has been identified for development under the NMDP as a part of the plan to develop coastal shipping.

MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the Government of India intend to allocate any fund for the Gopalpur Port, and what other assistance they want to give.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Sir, we have got twelve major ports and 187 minor ports. The Gopalpur Port is one of the minor ports in Orrisa. At the same time, we have identified the Gopalpur Port as one of the projects under the National Maritime Development Projects. We have already asked the

consultants to go for a piecemeal study. As and when this piecemeal study is complete, we will definitely take necessary action.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWER TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Shortage of Housing Units

†*222. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made an estimation about the shortage of housing units in the country;

(b) if so, the estimated shortage of housing units by the end of March, 2006;

(c) whether Government have fixed any target regarding the construction of housing units upto 2008-09; and

(d) if so, the number of housing units to be constructed under the said target and the total amount incurred thereon?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HOUSING AND URBAN POVERTY ALLEVIATION (KUMARI SELJA): (a) and (b) As per the Tenth Plan document, the housing shortage in urban areas at the end of Ninth Plan and the beginning of the Tenth Plan was 8.89 million. The total number of houses required during the Tenth Plan Period (2002-2007) was assessed at 22.44 million.

(c) and (d) Government of India has launched the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) to cope with the problem of shortage in housing and infrastructure services in a mission mode for 63 select cities. Under 'Basic Services for the Urban Poor' (BSUP), a sub-mission of JNNURM, provision of improved housing is aimed for urban poor. For remaining cities not covered under the Mission, a scheme namely 'Integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme' (IHSDP) has been launched alongwith JNNURM. The component of assistance under the scheme would include upgradation/new construction of houses and infrastructural facilities like water supply and sanitation as part of slum improvement. Both JNNURM and IHSDP are demand driven schemes and the quantum of progress

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.